

In step 125, the control unit 20 drives the linear stepping motor 3 to change the position of piston by about 150  $\mu$  m to align the surface of the liquid nozzle 1a with the tip position 1c of the nozzle 1a to prepare the next pipetting operation.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1, 2 and 6 as follows:

1. (AMENDED) A pipetting apparatus comprising:

a pipette having a nozzle;

pipette holding means for holding said pipette;

a piston fluid-tightly sliding along an inner wall of said pipette;

piston holding means for holding a portion of said piston; and

position changing means including an actuator for changing a position of said piston with said piston holding means by a short distance with respect to said pipette holding means in response to a high speed signal to jet a portion of a liquid in said pipette through said nozzle as a drop.

2. (AMENDED) A pipetting apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said actuator comprises a motor, said pipetting apparatus further comprises another position changing means including said motor for changing said position of said piston with said motor in response to a low speed signal to suck and discharge a desired amount of said liquid, and said motor is commonly used between said position changing means and said another position changing means.

6. (AMENDED) A method of pipetting a liquid with a pipette and a piston fluid-tightly sliding along an inner wall of said pipette comprising the steps of:

(a) sucking said liquid with said piston; and  
(b) changing a position of said piston with respect to said pipette by a short distance in response to a high speed signal to jet a portion of a liquid in said pipette as a drop through said nozzle.

*A3*  
Please add new claim 13 as follows:

13. (NEW) A pipetting apparatus comprising:  
a pipette having a nozzle;  
pipette holding means for holding said pipette;  
a piston fluid-tightly sliding along an inner wall of said pipette;  
piston holding means for holding a portion of said piston; and  
jetting means including an actuator for jetting a portion of a liquid in said pipette through said nozzle as a drop by changing a position of said piston with said piston holding means by a short distance with respect to said pipette holding means in response to a high speed signal.

*AH*

*Same as claim 1*